

PROCLAMATION  
Declaration of an Agricultural Emergency  
Monroe County

WHEREAS the New World screwworm, *Cochliomyia hominivorax*, poses a significant threat to the livestock well-being of the state; and

WHEREAS, the infestation of the New World screwworm in Florida constitutes an immediate, serious danger to the citizens of Florida, and to the economic health of the state; and

WHEREAS, the New World screwworm are fly larvae (maggots) that can infest livestock and other warmblooded animals, including people. They most often enter an animal through an open wound and feed on the animal's living flesh. If not treated, infestations can be fatal; and

WHEREAS, while the New World screwworm has not been reported in the United States in more than 30 years, and it has not been widely present in the United States since the 1960s, it is still found in most of South America and five Caribbean countries; and

WHEREAS, the presence of the New World screwworm was reported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture on October 3, 2016, after samples collected from a wildlife refuge in Big Pine Key in Monroe County were tested at the National Veterinary Services Laboratories in Ames, Iowa, and confirmed positive; and

WHEREAS, the New World screwworm can spread by the adult fly or when infested animals travel to new areas. The infestation of the New World screwworm has the potential to spread further in the county and, ultimately, to other areas of Florida and the United States without aggressive eradication measures; and

WHEREAS, if the New World screwworm became established in the United States, it could severely impact Florida's livestock industry, which generates more than \$2.78 billion in annual economic impact and supports more than 41,000 jobs; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 585.15, Florida Statutes, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services has determined that the New World screwworm is dangerous, transmissible, or threatening to agricultural interests of the state and is thus a "reportable disease;" and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 585.145, Florida Statutes, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall take such measures as may be necessary and proper for the control, suppression, eradication, and prevention of the spread of contagious, infectious, and communicable disease and to protect animals in the state; and

WHEREAS, the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services, along with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, has implemented immediate eradication procedures, which include fly trapping to determine the extent of the infestation, release of sterile flies to prevent the pest

from breeding, disease surveillance to look for additional cases in animals and the establishment of an Animal Health Check Zone (quarantine) which includes an Interdiction Station located at Mile Marker #106 for inspection and treatment of animals; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 585.40, Florida Statutes, whenever the department issues a quarantine, it shall be unlawful for any person, while such quarantine exists, to take, drive, or transport any animal into or out of such quarantined premise without permission of the State Veterinarian; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 4(b) of the Florida Constitution declares that the Commissioner of Agriculture shall have supervision of matters pertaining to agriculture except as otherwise provided by law; and

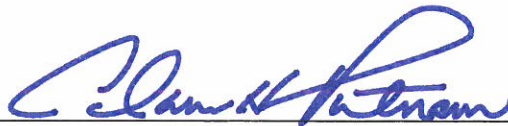
WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 570.07(21), Florida Statutes, the Commissioner of Agriculture has the authority to declare an emergency when one exists in any matter pertaining to agriculture; and

WHEREAS, when the Commissioner of Agriculture has declared an agricultural emergency, no county or municipal ordinance relating to any action intended to end the emergency shall be enforced within a county or municipality with respect to such action taken by the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services during the agricultural emergency.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Adam H. Putnam, as Commissioner of Agriculture, in accordance with the powers and authorities conferred by Article IV, Section 4, Florida Constitution and Section 570.07(21), Florida Statutes, hereby proclaim the existence of an agricultural emergency in Monroe County, based on the infestation of the New World screwworm, affecting the livestock interests of this state that is an immediate and serious danger to the public health, safety or welfare in the State of Florida.

This Order shall expire on December 26, 2016, unless extended or rescinded.

EXECUTED THIS 3rd DAY OF OCTOBER 2016.



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ADAM H. PUTNAM  
COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE

